isation of wastes subject to Basel Convention would also be evolving a list of wastes which are not subject to Basel Convention. The decision of the Government would depend upon the final list recommended by this Group.

Pension Scheme for E.P.F. Subscribers

7. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to introduce any pension scheme for the subscribers of Employees Provident Fund, throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when this scheme is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether any legal measure is necessary; and

(e) if so, by when such a bill is likely to come?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (e) The Government already framed and notified a Pension Scheme for the EPF subscribers w.e.f. 16/11/95. The Scheme inter-alia provides for payment ofmonthly pension in the contingencies of superannuation, retirement, death etc. Minimum 10 years contributory service is necessary for becoming entitled to pension. The amount of pension will be worked out on the basis of average pensionable salary of the last 12 months. The necessary Bill in this regard is already pending before the Rajya Sabha.

Scheme for Deemed Exports

8. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of treating certain categories of supplies of goods and services as Deemed Exports is showing results;

(b) if so, what has been the success rate of this scheme;

(c) whether Government intend to improve and modify this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Deemed Exports benefit has been extended to certain categories of supply of goods as listed in Paragraph 121 of the current Export and Import Policy. Supply of services, however, is not included in the Scheme.

The Scheme enables domestic suppliers to be more competitive and thereby provides them with more opportunities. A large number of such domestic suppliers have already benefitted under the Scheme.

(c) and (d) The scheme is under constant review and changes are made as and when need arises to further rationalise and steamline the Scheme.

Failure to Meet Export Obligations by EOUs

9. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several export oriented units in the country have failed to meet their export obligations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DGFT propose to contemplate any penal action against such defaulting units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) According to available information, during the period 1993-94 to 1995-96, 134 cases have

been reported by the concerned authorities for non-fulfilment of export obligations by 100% EOUs. Investigations have been completed in 91 cases and show cause notices under the provisions of the Imports & Exports (Control) Act and Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, have been issued.

Export of Iron-Ore

10. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have exported iron-ore in the year 1994-95 and during the first sixth months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the amount of iron-ore exported during this period; and

(c) what is the total import of iron-ore during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The total export and import of' iron-ore during 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April-August' 95 is as under:

Qty: *in lakh tonnes*

Year	*Exports*	*Imports*
1994-95 1995-96 (April-August)	252.15 135.65	15 23 N.A.

N.A. = Not Available SOURCE: DGCI&S, Calcutta

Prices of Essential Commodities

11. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 101 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 1995 and state the increase/decrease in the prices of essential commodities in the country during the period from 1st May to 30th July, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): Percentage variations in the Wholesale Price indices of selected essential commodities during May, 1995 to July, 1995 are as under:

Commodity	*Percentage Variation*
Rice	+ 3.6
Wheat	- 3.6
Gram	8.3
Arhar	+ 21.0
Potatoes	+ 71.9
Onions	+ 58.2
Tea	+ 38.4
Sugar	+ 0.9
Salt	+ 32.6
Vanaspati	- 0.8
Groundnut Oil	+ 2.3
Mustard Oil	- 1.3
All Commodities	+ *2.0*

Duty Free Trade and Commerce Among SAARC Countries

12. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved till now to have duty-free trade and commerce among the SAARC countries;

(b) the total loss of annual anticipated revenue following the full implementation of the proposal; and

(c) the likely impact on India's balance of trade in the wake of such implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The agreement establishing the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) was signed on 11th April, 1993 at the 7th SAARC Summit held in DhaVa All the